



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Volunteers Needed for the Idaho Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
Full-Scale Exercise**

What if a major disease outbreak occurred throughout Idaho? Hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices could be overwhelmed. How would you and your family get the medicine you need?

Thousands of public health staff, emergency responders, law enforcement officers, medical workers, and community volunteers will take part June 26-30 in one of the most extensive emergency response exercises in Idaho. This large-scale event is a collective effort by hundreds of agencies designed to practice the distribution of large quantities of medication during a public health emergency. Volunteers are needed by each of Idaho's seven district health departments on Thursday, June 29th, to act as patients in the dispensing of medications at mass distribution clinics for the emergency exercise. The 'medications' being administered to volunteers will be in the form of candy.

During the four-day exercise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will participate by sending a training portion of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to Idaho. The SNS features large quantities of medicine and medical supplies that can be shipped within 12 hours to any state experiencing a public health emergency. Each of Idaho's district health departments will work with the Department of Health and Welfare to test their plans to administer large quantities of SNS medical supplies at Point of Dispensing (POD) distribution centers in each community.

(more)

The volunteers will help the health districts to independently establish a baseline for the number of people they can efficiently and effectively provide medication to in a short period of time in each community. Once established, this baseline will give public health planners a solid foundation for future planning efforts for public health emergencies.

Volunteers who would like to help in their communities can contact their district health departments at the numbers listed below.

Volunteer Contact Information

	District	Phone	Contact
1	Panhandle Health District	208-415-5185	Karen Cotton
2	North Central District Health Dept.	208-799-0396	Patty Wood
3	Southwest District Health	208- 455-5377	Ellie Newcomb
4	Central District Health Dept.	208-327-8597	Joca Veloz
5	South Central District Health	208-736-4234 208-737-1139	Jackie Frey Karyn Goodale.
6	Southeastern District Health Dept.	208- 239-5295	Penny Nelson
7	District 7 Health Department	208-522-0310 ext. 222	Pat Kishiyama

(Editors: For more information about the exercise in your area, please contact your district health department public information officer or IDHW's Tom Shanahan.)